

I oppose the pending action for several reasons. First, Qwest has a history of non-competitive pricing, and without competition, would be able to extract monopolistic rates from potential broadband customers.

Second, I do not use now, nor do I wish to use the facilities of any of the big ISP's. I prefer to use the independent ISP that I have chosen for myself, because it provides the level of services that I wish to have, at a price that I think is fair.

Third, the only broadband provider in the area is CableOne, a TV cable company. Their rates are also determined by their monopoly position in the local market.

Fourth. Qwest has never provided the technology to this part of Arizona that would be taken for granted in any other part of the country. Our telephone service is second rate, and slow because of aging equipment, and lack of investment in physical plant. There is no reason to believe the situation would improve if Qwest were able to refuse co-location of the equipment of other, competing DSL or broadband providers.

The FCC rule that required equipment co-location was meant to foster competition, and because of it, urban areas were served by large numbers of entrepreneurs providing DSL and other broadband services.

The "Baby Bells" showed no interest in providing or promoting broadband services in their respective operating areas, with Qwest being most remiss in this area. Now that broadband services have been seen to be a successful, and growing market segment, they seek to remove all competitors, by changing the law, and forcing a reinterpretation of FCC rules.

The FCC is supposed to serve the interests of the people of the United States, and provide and promote a climate for entrepreneurial entry into the marketplace.

The proposed ruling would gut Congress' intent in the latest communications act, by effectively removing the small ISPs from the market, and setting up a monopoly of the large telecommunications companies.

In my opinion, that is a bad idea, and should not be allowed to go forward.

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